

## OUR RAMBLER

ON THE POSITION OF IRISH CATHOLICS IN MONTREAL.

HIS OPINION OF POLITICIANS AND WIRE-PULLERS—MONTREAL FREE LIBRARY—S. A.A.A. CLUBHOUSE SOCIALS AND OTHER MATTERS.

Perhaps, when this appears in print the vacancy occasioned in the Road Department, by the lamented death of the late Patrick O'Reilly, shall have been filled, and probably by a French-Canadian. I may be, and hope I am, wrong in my surmise as to the probability of the secretaryship of the Road Department being given to a person other than an Irish-Catholic; but I think it is a conclusion to be reasonably arrived at, and certainly justified by the fact that of recent years persons of Irish extraction coupled with Catholic belief have been studiously overlooked or ignored in the filling of government or municipal positions of any importance. The "old stock" die off, and the younger generation of Irish-Catholics, in the eyes of the statesman and the politician, appear to be of no consequence.

The politician of to-day has developed an abnormal faculty of looking out for "number one." His sole ambition is to retain the prefix "Honorable" or "Alderman," or the affix, M.P., in connection with his name, and to enjoy the various shades of advantages which accompany these titles. To attain his end he acquires the knack of manipulating the popular vote, and gives to each section of the community the consideration which it deserves, as a powerful or impotent factor in an election. He has a very poor opinion of the Irish-Catholic vote in a collective sense. He is careful not to offend the French-Canadian people—they are a race which is not to be trampled upon; he would think twice before doing anything which would hurt the feelings of the English or Scotch Protestants—they have good memories and know how to avenge an injury and right an injustice; he handles the Orangemen delicately and with gloves; they are a power not to be despised, and insist upon getting all they are entitled to and a good deal more. But the Irish—the Irish-Catholics—he just leaves them as a class to mullify their own existence. They have no union, no singleness of purpose in public matters. As a body they cannot be pleased or offended. True, they have thousands upon thousands of votes and generally poll them—always acting individually and impelled by separate conviction, each man exercising his own grand independence in counteracting the good or bad effect of his brother's vote.

The politician knows by experience that the Irish-Catholics lack the very semblance of unity. As a class they will never demand justice and insist upon receiving it in even a partial measure. With a patient humility, which under other circumstances would command the deepest admiration, they are dumb when openly slighted, and silent when most deliberately ignored.

This is the politician's opinion of the "Irish vote" in Montreal. Is he justified in holding such an opinion? Look around and see, and, seeing, think. Who holds the Government and municipal affairs of pretension once occupied by Irish-Catholics. Not Irish Catholics? No. Does our proportion of the population only entitle us to two aldermen? Figure it up and see if five would not be nearer the mark. Is one member of Parliament and one representative at Quebec giving our people a fair voice in the deliberations of the country? Hardly.

Well, with the lack of unity which exists amongst the Irish-Catholics, and the fact that union of their people for their advancement as such and for the protection of their rights seems to be generally looked upon as an utter impossibility, I cannot even feign surprise when the bejeweled wire-puller or politician, between puffs of his cigar, sentimentally remarks: "The Irish-Catholic vote? Oh, it is all right!"

The Montreal Free Library in connection with the Gesù Church is fairly well patronized, but not in such large numbers as it should be. There can be found books of all descriptions, interesting to the tastes of every class of people.

The conversion of the Provincial debt is a conspicuous theme amongst local politicians these times. Is it a bad debt which our good statesmen are trying to convert? Bad debts as a rule are very uninteresting subjects.

I notice that the worthy President of the Shamrock A.A.A. is booming the Association Club house as a resort for snowshoe clubs and social parties during the winter on whose threshold we now stand. Mr. Butler's efforts, which are ever rightly directed, should be crowned with success. The smoking concert last Friday evening was an enjoyable occasion to be remembered with pleasure by those present, and I have no doubt but the Shamrock Club House shall have established a deserved popularity for itself ere the spring.

Every Irish Catholic in the city honestly believes that we should have a daily paper of our own, and, it he thinks

on the subject at all, wonders why one is not started—by somebody else. A daily voice through the powerful medium of the press would certainly be a great boon to our people, but papers are not run on clarified atmospheres—something more substantial and visible is required.

The time may arrive when a daily paper in the interests of Irish-Catholics may become an imperative necessity in this city. In anticipation of this event, I would suggest that we take a course of preparatory education in the art of effectively supporting a newspaper by giving substantial assistance in every way to the present weekly exponent of our principles, THE TRUE WITNESS. We are now only called upon to make one-seventh the effort which will be required when the "imperative necessity" above referred to arrives.

It is stated that the mud turtle is rapidly superseding the pug dog as a fashionable pet.

I will now crawl into my shell.  
WALTER R.

## A CATHOLIC CANADA.

What a Californian Journalist Thinks of Our Future.

The San Francisco Monitor has the following editorial article on the future of Canada:—

The Loyal Orangemen of Canada who rushed across the border in such numbers for the past few years to save Uncle Samuel from the toils of Rome are now in a sorry plight. Their services have not been appreciated in this country and their movement has met with sudden failure. Their disappointment will be all the more bitter after a careful study of the latest Canadian statistics. These statistics show that the population of the richest provinces of the Dominion is gradually becoming Catholic and in the course of time Papists will fall heir to the land of the Orangemen.

Notwithstanding the vast sums of money that have been expended in promoting immigration to Canada, the project has proven a failure. Of the 1,000,000 immigrants from Europe during the past decade only four per cent settled in Canada. The vast majority crossed over to the United States. It is, therefore, certain that Canada can never hope to swell its population from the ranks of foreign-born citizens.

The Dominion must depend on the native born element for its future population. But the latest statistics show that in the Protestant provinces the birth rate is rapidly decreasing. The young Canadians are emigrating in great numbers to the United States while the old remain at home. Take for example the vital statistics of 1894. The Province of Quebec has a population of 1,500,000, almost wholly Catholic. The total gain in population of this province from natural increase for the year 1894 was about 14 per thousand.

The other provinces, whose population is 3,500,000, only show a gain of 5 per thousand during the same period. Toronto, the centre of Orangism, shows only a total gain of seven in a thousand and the results indicate that there will be no gain from natural increase during the decade ending 1901. Canadian statistics therefore point to the passing away of Orange domination and to the overwhelming preponderance of Catholics in the future population.

Canada is naturally a wealthy country. Her fisheries are most productive; her forests are valuable; her mineral wealth is boundless and her land is fertile. She has great opportunities ahead when she passes from under British domination. As it is there is no possible chance that her resources can be developed. While she remains the vassal of England she can never progress to wealth or power. Sooner or later however she shall become an independent republic or else be merged into the United States. When that day comes Canada will begin to be one of the powers of the world.

And the prospects are that her population will be Catholic. Verily the Orangemen should have remained at home to protect their own land from the Pope. If they chance to study these alarming statistics there will be a terrible exodus from the United States while there is yet a chance of retaining power. At present they are in a fearful dilemma. Uncle Sam has repudiated the pretensions of Canadian Traynor and his followers and the patient industrious French Canadians are gradually obtaining possession of the wealth and land of Canada.

JOHN E. REDMOND, M.P.,

MAY PROBABLY VISIT MONTREAL.

It is probable that Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., who is delivering a course of "strictly non-political and non-controversial" lectures in the United States, will entertain a Montreal audience with one of them early in the new year. His lectures are three in number—"Fifteen Years in the British Parliament," with sketches of Disraeli, Gladstone, Bright, Parnell, Lord Randolph, Balfour and others, with descriptions of the incidents and events which made those years historically interesting; "Irish Ballad Poetry," with readings from the best writers; and "Irish Wit and Humor." As Mr. Redmond is one of the orators of the Irish Parliamentary Party and a man of great literary ability, his tour is certain to be a success. It is impossible to forgo the expression of regret that the cause of Irish national unity does not enjoy the benefit of his brilliant advocacy.

## A ROUND TABLE

OF THE REPRESENTATIVE AMERICAN CATHOLIC NOVELISTS.

Even at this holiday season, when books of all kinds, but good story books in particular, are published in greater abundance, perhaps, than any real de-

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mand for them justifies this "Round Table of the Representative Catholic Novelists" is a very welcome volume. In it we have portraits and biographical sketches of Eleanor C. Donnelly, Anna Hanon Dorsey, Ella Lorraine Dorsey, Maurice Francis Egan, Francis J. Finn, S.J., Walter Lecky, Christian Itt (Mrs. Francis C. Tierman), Anna T. Sedgwick, Mary A. Sadler, John Talbot Smith and Charles Warren Stoddard; and following there is a sample short story from the pen of each author. The fiction is it is needless to say, of a high class and an excellent quality, characterized by a charming variety of style, together with an elevated and elevating tone. The book is well bound and printed and would make an admirable Christmas present. It is published by Benziger Brothers, New York, at \$1.50.

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The Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 31st December next, both days inclusive.

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H. J. BREAUX, Manager.

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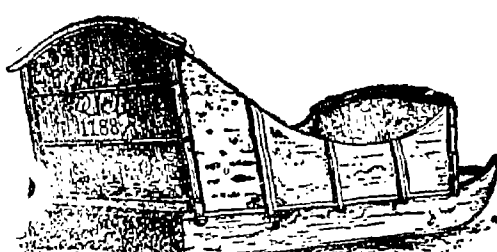
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